

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 04325 030444Z

15

ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 4325

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SUBJECT: CHANGES INFOREIGN MILITARY TRAINING PROGRAM

REF STATE 051768, 031747Z MAR 76

IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARA 5 OF REF, FOLLOWING IS PROVIDED:
(ANSWERS KEYED TO SUBPARAGRAPHS)

AM INCREASE IN TUITION COSTS, WITHOUT COMPENSATING INCREASE IN
HOST COUNTRY ALLOCATION, WILL DEFINITELY HAVE ADVERSE EFFECT ON
BILATERAL MILITARY RELATIONS. MEXICAN OFFICIALDOM TENDS TO MAINTAIN
HIGHLY RESERVED, IF NOT STAND-OFFISH, ATTITUDE TOWARD USG FOR
REASONS OF HISTORIC NATURE AND, PERHAPS, OF GOM NATIONAL POLICY.
THIS HAS IN PAST BEEN PARTICULARLY TRUE OF MILITARY. PRESENT
RELATIONS WITH MEXICAN MILITARY ARE EXCEPTIONALLY GOOD, DUE IN
LARGE MEASURE TO TRAINING PROVIDED MEXICAN MILITARY UNDER FMTP.
CHANCES ARE BETTER THAN EVEN THAT DECREASE IN MEXICO'S
ALREADY TOO-SMALL FMTP PROGRAM WOULD CAUSE HIGHLY NATIONALISTIC
AND SENSITIVE MEXICANS TO DISPENSE WITH FMTP ALTOGETHER.
AS STATED BELOW, TRAINING WOULD NOT LIKELY BE PURCHASED FROM USG.
INCONSISTENCY OF PROGRAM AND ITS ON-AGAIN OFF-AGAIN
APPROACH HAVE BEEN SOURCES OF CONFUSION AND IRRITATION IN PAST
AND ANOTHER DEGRADATION MAY CAUSE GOM TO SEEK TRAINING
ELSEWHERE.

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PAGE 02 MEXICO 04325 030444Z

B(Q) PROFESSIONAL OFFICER COURSE, OFFICER TECHNICAL TRAINING COURSES, PILOT TRAINING COURSES, AND ENLISTED TECHNICAL TRAINING COURSE ARE COURSES OF GREATEST INTEREST TO MEXICAN MILITARY.

B(2). HOST COUNTRY PRESENTLY RECEIVES THIS TRAINING UNDER MAP GRANT-AID. PAST EXPERIENCE INDICATES THAT HOST COUNTRY NOT LIKELY TO PAY FOR THIS TRAINING.

B(3). HOST COUNTRY LIKELY TO LOOK ELSEWHERE TO MEET THIS TRAINING REQUIREMENT.

C(1). PROFESSIONAL OFFICER COURSE CREATE COOPERATIVE ATMOSPHERE FAVORABLE TO U.S. AND INFLUENCE HOST COUNTRY MILITARY DOCTRINE AND FUTURE EQUIPMENT PURCHASES.

C(2). TECHNICAL TRAINING AND PILOT TRAINING ARE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE MEXICAN ARMED FORCES WITH AMPLE TRAINING SUPERVISORY PERSONNEL TO PERMIT HOST COUNTRY TO BE SELF-SUFFICIENT. THEREBY HELPING TO ACHIEVE U.S. GOALS FOR MEXICO FOR MORE RESPONSIBLE AND COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE ON DEFENSE COMMITMENTS UNDER INTER-AMERICAN TREATY OF RECIPROCAL ASSISTANCE.

C(3). THIS TRAINING PRESENTLY BEING PROVIDED UNDER GRANT ASSISTANCE.

C(4). IF COSTS DOUBLE, ESSENTIAL GRANT PROGRAM CANNOT BE CONTINUED UNDER PRESENT PROGRAM FUNDING LEVEL.

C(5). PROPOSED LEVEL OF \$200,000 FOR FY77 WOULD BE BARELY SUFFICIENT TO CONTINUE ESSENTIAL GRANT PROGRAM.

D. NAVY AND ARMY/AF PROGRAM THEIR TRAINING SEPARATELY. NAVY WOULD PROBABLY ABANDON ALL MARINE CORPS TRAINING AND MAINTAIN ONLY HIGH LEVEL PROFESSIONAL TRAINING. ARMY-AF WOULD PROBABLY DISPENSE WITH ENTIRE PROGRAM. IF ANY FACET WAS RETAINED, IT WOULD BE ADVANCED ROTARY WING TRAINING FOR AVIATORS.

E(1). HOST COUNTRY WILL LIKELY LOOK ELSEWHERE FOR EQUIVALENT TRAINING. SOME STUDENTS ALREADY ARE PERIODICALLY TRAINED IN CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MEXICO 04325 030444Z

VENEZUELA AND PERU. CONCEIVABLY, GOM WILL SEEK TRAINING IN OTHER SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES. THERE IS ALSO NO DOUBT THAT COMMUNIST COUNTRIES WOULD BE WILLING TO FILL THE VACUUM. USSR AND CUBA HAVE ALREADY OFFERED TRAINING AND MILITARY SALES. CUBA WOULD BE MOST LIKELY COUNTRY BECAUSE OF PROXIMITY, LANGUAGE AND COSTS.

E(2). INITIALLY, MEXICO'S MILITARY COMPETENCE WILL NOT DIMINISH,

BUT WITHIN FIVE YEARS THERE WILL BE VISIBLE DETERIORATION UNLESS MEXICO MAKES ARRANGEMENTS FOR PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL TRAINING. ALTHOUGH MEXICO PREFERS U.S DOCTRINE AND MATERIAL, INEVITABLY THEY WILL LOOK TO COUNTRIES PROVIDING TRAINING AND MATERIAL AND AT LITTLE OR NO COST. ALL OF THIS WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE HARMFUL TO BILATERAL RELATIONS.

F. ELIMINATION OF GRANT TRAINING WOULD HAVE SEVERE IMPACT ON OUR RELATIONS WITH MEXICAN MILITARY. GRANT TRAINING IS MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS WE PRESENTLY HAVE FOR MAINTAINNING FAVORABLE ORIENTATION OF MEXICAN MILITARY LEADERSHIP TOWARD U.S. MAINTAINING THIS FAVORABLE ORIENTATION IS PARTICULARLY PERTIENT SINCE MILITARY OFFICERS OCCUPY NUMBER OF KEY GOVERNMENT AND SECURITY JOBS AND ARE EVEN REPRESENTED IN RULING PARTY. MAINTAINING GOOD RELATIONS WITH MILITARY IS IMPORTANT TO US FOR OBVIOUS REASONS, NOT LEAST OF WHICH IS ROLE PLAYED BY MILITARY IN OUR BILATERAL ANTI-NARCOTICS EFFORT. MEXICO HAS NEED OF PROFESSIONAL MILITARY TRAINING AND, IF THE U.S FALLS SHORT, OTHER COUNTRIES WILL BE MORE THAN WILLING TO FILL THE VACANCY.
THOMPSON

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